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SOUTH VIET NAM In struggle

SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION INFORMATION COMMISSION

3rd year

No 50

December 20 1969

ADDRESS :
HT 1217 B-SVN
C/O
FRONALI PHNOM-PENH
Samdech Pann, Phnom-Penh
CAMBODIA

★

DAZIMINA HANOI
19, Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN
and other South Viet Nam NFL
Missions in foreign countries

PLAF heroes happily welcome President Nguyen Huu Tho visiting their units

"The most dangerous enemies of our people at present are the US imperialist aggressors and their lackeys - the traitorous puppet administration.

The present tasks and objectives of the South Vietnamese people in their struggle for national salvation are : to unite the entire people, resolutely defeat the US imperialists' war of aggression, overthrow their lackeys, the puppet administration, establish a broadly democratic national-coalition administration, build an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam and advance toward the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland.

(Political program of the NFL)

Our policy is a very humanitarian one

(RSVN. PRG statement on Christmas and New Year truce)

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, on December 2, issued the following statement on the suspension of military attacks on the enemy on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year :

"THE resistance conducted by the South Viet Nam armed forces and people against the US aggression, for national salvation has recorded many great victories. Our clearsighted, just stand as manifested in the 10-point overall solution of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and in the 12-point Program of Action of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has received growing sympathy and support from the people of the world, including the American people.

The US imperialists, however, remain very stubborn. They are seeking to keep the Paris Conference on Viet Nam in a deadlock, while trying to deceive the world public with their pious words about "peace," "their troops withdrawal in dribblets," and their "de-Americanization of the war" which, in fact, are meant to prolong their aggression. The US aggressors and their puppets — the Thieu-Ky-Khiem traitors — are stepping up terror raids and "pacification" operations to massacre our people, while increasing taxes and other methods of exploitation, to the greater misery of our compatriots.

Therefore the war, which should have been stopped, is dragging out US and vassal troops, instead of going home to enjoy the coming Christmas and New Year festivities with their families, are still here to die a useless death for the US imperialists.

So long as the US imperialists remain stubborn, our people will continue fighting till "the US quit and the puppets topple", as President Ho told us, to win complete victory.

Like in the previous years, proceeding from our unswerving humanitarian policy, from our respect for our own custom and that of the other peoples, from our deep concern for the legitimate feeling and desire of our compatriots, the American people and other peoples, as well as the majority of the US, puppet and satellite troops, and in order that our people as well as the US, puppet and vassal troops may have necessary conditions and enough time to prepare for and enjoy the Christmas and New Year festivities, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam decides to suspend military attacks on the US, puppet and satellite troops :

— For three days on the occasion of Christmas, from 00.00 hour December 24, 1969 Indo-China time, or 01.00 hour December 24, 1969 Saigon time, to 00.00 hour December 27, 1969 Indo-China time, or 01.00 hour December 27, 1969 Saigon time.

— For three days on the occasion of the New Year, from 00.00 hour December 30, 1969 Indo-China time, or 01.00 hour December 30, 1969 Saigon time, to 00.00 hour January 2, 1970 Indo-China time, or 01.00 hour January 2, 1970 Saigon time.

Our entire people, all our People's Liberation Armed Forces, and our cadres in all services and at all levels, out of our good will for peace, should strictly implement this decision while, in our sleepless vigilance frustrating any attempt of the enemy to distort the meaning of the supension of our military attacks, and crushing any provocative or sabotage act by the US imperialists and their henchmen, thus enabling US, puppet and satellite troops to celebrate the birth of Christ, see the New Year and rejoin their families.

Our policy is a very humanitarian one.

Our stand is very clear and just.

The US aggressors and their henchmen, however, are very obdurate, ferocious and perfidious in nature. Therefore, our entire people and all our armed forces should always sharpen their militant spirit.

We must not have any illusion on the enemy. Let us, on the contrary, fight continually and perseveringly, and strengthen our resolve to crush whatever move or scheme of the enemy to win new, greater, more all-round victories, until we obtain complete victory.

"Those in the puppet army and puppet administration at any level who have committed crimes against the people but are now sincerely repentant will be pardoned. Those who redeem their crimes by meritorious deeds will be rewarded accordingly.

Captured officers and soldiers of the puppet army will enjoy humane treatment and leniency.

— US and satellite officers and soldiers who cross over to the people's side will be given kind treatment and helped to return to their families when conditions permit.

— Captured US and satellite troops will receive the same treatment as captured puppet troops.

(Political program of the NFL)

Christmas and New Year truce

The Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces on December, 2 issued the following order for the suspension of military attacks on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year :

"In strict implemention of a decision of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam to suspend military attacks on the US, puppet and satellite troops on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year, the Command of the South Viet Nam people's Liberation Armed Forces orders :

1 — All the People's Liberation Armed Forces throughout South Viet Nam including the main forces, the regional army, the armed security forces, and the militia and guerillas, to suspend their military attacks.

— For 3 days on the occasion of Christmas, from 00.00 hour December 24, 1969 Indo-China time, or 01.00 hour December 24, 1969 Saigon time, to 00.00 hour December 27, 1969 Indo-China time, or 01.00 hour December 27, 1969 Saigon time.

— For 3 days on the occasion of the New Year, from 00.00 hour December 30, 1969 Indo-China time, or 01.00 hour December 30, 1969 Saigon time, to 00.00 hour January 2, 1970 Indo-China time, or 01.00 hour January 2, 1970 Saigon time.

2 — In the periods covered by the order on the suspension of military attacks, US and satellite troops as well as puppet troops and personnel of the Saigon puppet administration are free to go to the church or take part in festivities during Christmas and the New Year's Day, at home or in public gatherings, on conditions that they go separately, not in organized bodies, and without weapons or spying means.

3 — In these periods, all military attacks by US, puppet or vassal troops against the South Vietnamese people and armed forces in whatever forms, including reconnaissance flights, strafing or bombing or chemical spraying, movement of combat ships, or artillery shelling in any part of South Viet Nam, will be regarded as violations of the PRG order for the suspension of military attacks and will be punished.

4 — For the protection of the people and the strict implementation of the decision of the Provisional Revolutionary Government and the order of the PLAF Command, the People's Liberation Armed Forces throughout South Viet Nam should strictly act as ordered, while remaining vigilant and ready to fight and wipe out the enemy and resolutely punish any recalcitrant truce-breakers.

PLAF Command's order on cessation of military attacks on Filipino troops

— Following is the full text of an order issued on December, 7 by the Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces on the cessation of military attacks on Filipino troops :

"Over the past years, the Philippine government, in service of the US policy of aggression, has dispatched mercenaries to South Viet Nam, who together with troops of the US and its henchmen in South Viet Nam have undertaken a war against the South Vietnamese people. In face of the heavy setbacks of the US, and under the pressure of public opinion in the world as well as in the Philippines, the Philippine government has been forced to declare the withdrawal of all its troops from South Viet Nam before Christmas 1969.

Proceeding from the lenient and humanitarian policy of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and in order to enable the quick and safe repatriation of the Filipino troops so that they may soon reunite with their families, the Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces issues the following order :

1) The South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces will not attack units of the Filipino troops if they strictly observe the following points :

a) They must make public the timetable for the withdrawal and the road of the withdrawal and withdraw according to the announced schedule.

b) Pending the withdrawal and during the withdrawal period they must not carry out any hostile acts against the South Viet Nam PLAF and must not harm the lives and property of the South Vietnamese people.

c) They must put up flags of the Philippines at their encampments and along the road of withdrawal, and in order to avoid any confusion, they must not encamp or move along with troops of the US and the puppet army or troops of other foreign countries of the US camp.

2) Those Filipino units which do not strictly observe these regulations must bear full responsibility for the lives of their soldiers.

3) This order will come into force immediately after publication".

editorial

The NFL, architect of the South Viet Nam Revolution's successes

THE South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has been in existence for exactly 9 years, a short span of time in the history of a nation, during which a giant's stride has been made by the South Vietnamese revolution.

Over the past 9 years, under its oriflamme, the South Viet Nam people have worked wonders. For national survival, and in self-defence, which is an inalienable right of theirs, they have, millions inspired with a single purpose put up a heroic resistance against US aggression. At their hands, various US strategies have failed: the "special war" has come to grief, while the "local war" is already fated. Since Tet 1968, the fortune of the war has been particularly favourable to them and their struggle against foreign invasion has switched over to a new stage, and has been geared to the highest pitch in a revolutionary war, the stage of general offensives by the armed forces and concerted uprisings by the people. Its basic trend is the pressing forward of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people's devastating attacks in their posture of all-out offensive to total victory, and the enemy sliding onto the defensive, and from one setback to another to his final doom.

Our stepped-up daring raids of a strategic purport on adverse metal centres and our widespread simultaneous insurrections have upset our opponent's strategic position and forced him to drop his "two-prong" plan for the "clear and hold" strategy, which, for all its unmistakably passive and defensive character has been off to a very unpromising start.

Adverse losses in men and material have broken all-time records. The Saigon regime is tottering while its army is reched to its foundations. US political, economic, financial and social difficulties arising out of its aggressive war against Viet Nam are accumulating. Its loss of the initiative on the battlefield is left in no doubt, and its troops find themselves in a strategic encirclement, exposed everywhere to crushing onsets. Our forces have proved capable of packing a powerful punch, of keeping up sustained actions, with their strength and success growing in proportion to the length of the operations

POPULAR power has been installed not only in mountain areas, plains and vicinities of the towns but even in the cities themselves. The identity of mind of the people of the occupied towns and rural areas has been strengthening and giving more sting to military and political drives for better living conditions, democracy and peace. The emergence of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces was indicative of a substantial advance of the Front of Broad National Unity. The militancy of the widespread movement for the replacement of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem triumvirate by a peace cabinet willing to engage in serious negotiations with the NFL and the ANDPF has been aggravating US-puppet political alienation from the masses and driving a wedge deeper and deeper into their ranks.

As a result of the last 9 years' achievements, the liberated areas now occupy 4/5 of the total South Viet Nam territory, and give shelter to 3/4 of its total population. From the central to the local level, a structure of revolutionary rule has been erected and is being fitched into shape. The formation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the South Viet Nam Republic can be seen as an important development of the South Vietnamese national liberation revolution and an assertion of the South Viet Nam people's right to shape their own destiny.

In implementation of the NFL concrete lines and policies, the people in the free zone have been designing a new life for themselves. Production has been pushed up to meet the pressing needs of the resistance and to gradually improve the living standards of the people. Education, health, and arts have been given a vigorous impulse not only to help increase the people's material and moral welfare but also the fighting against the enemy on the cultural and ideological front.

INTERNATIONALLY, the NFL and the PRG of the SVN Republic have won widespread recognition and their credit has been on the upgrade. The 10-point programme has been warmly received as a sensible basis for a political settlement to the SVN issue. Right at its birth, the PRG of the SVNR was recognized by tens of countries, and exchanged with, or sent ambassadors to many of them. The fruitful friendship visits of many delegations of the NFL and the PRG of the SVNR to the SU, China and other socialist and nationalist countries in Asia, Africa, Mideast and Near-east have further strengthened the relations between the SVNR and peace-and justice-loving nations in the world. They have affirmed the NFL and PRG of the SVNR role as the genuine representatives of the South Vietnamese people, and found further confirmation of international help for their resistance against US aggression, for national salvation.

The world peoples' front supporting Viet Nam's fight against aggression which took shape a few years ago has markedly expanded. Mounting anti-war protest in the US has assumed a magnitude and intensity as far unknown, which saps the strength of the aggressors and worsens their political estrangement. The international image of the US has been critically dimmed.

The South Vietnamese patriots' tremendous military, political and diplomatic accomplishments over the last 9 years must be inescapably ascribed to the NFL imaginative application of the political and military lines of Vietnamese revolution and combined bringing into play of the spirit of revolutionary offensive and the nation's traditional stamina and dauntlessness.

They have been possible thanks to the unrivalled strength of the bloc of national solidarity which has rallied the entire people under the righteous banner of the NFL. In its political programme, it has charted the course of South Viet Nam's revolution, the credit for whose successes in the past 9 years goes to the organizational and leading ableness of the NFL and the importance of whose progress presage with certitude the attainment of goals of SVN liberation movement: independence, democracy, peace, neutrality, prosperity and eventual peaceful, national reunification.

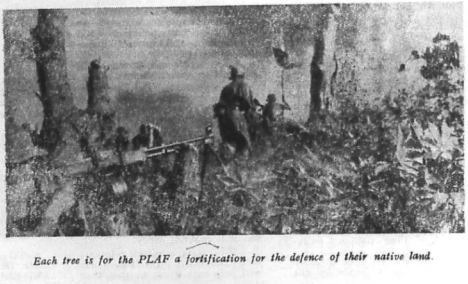
US stinging setbacks in South Viet Nam have put into the US imperialists' heads the idea of "de-Americanizing" and "Vietnamizing" the war to extricate themselves from the morass. But they are still labouring under the illusory hope of securing a "position of strength" on the battlefield, of reinforcing the puppet regime and army into a neo-colonialist implement. Hence their present desperate efforts to this effect in South Viet Nam, with a single eye to the maintenance of US rule there.

Throughout the 46 sessions of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, the US representatives have been bending all their energies on dodging the crux of the matter: removal of aggression to be done by the aggressor himself, i. e. the US through the total and unconditional of all US and satellite soldiery from South Viet Nam, as suggested in the NFL ten-point solution. Mr Nixon's November 3, 1969 address and December 12, 1969 press conference have only shed a stronger light on US aggressive stance. Token" cutbacks, "de-Americanization", and "Vietnamization" of the war are palliatives to difficulties caused by US aggression and whose purpose is only to prosecute the atrocious war in South Viet Nam with native troops instead of GIs.

For all their cunningness and cruelty, US wild calculations are those of an adversary who cannot make up his mind to inevitable defeat. Such stubbornness has confronted him with inextricable dilemmas and landed him in a vicious circle: "Americanization" of the war after it had been lost by the Vietnamese puppets, "de-Americanization" and "Vietnamization" of the conflict, now that a military victory by the GIs has become a pipe-dream.

Neither "de-Americanization" nor "Vietnamization", no any other US trick can block or even slow down the triumphal march of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people, under the patriotic standard of the NFL and the PRG of the SVN Republic. On the occasion of the Front's 9th birthday, fired by past and present exploits and with President Ho Chi Minh's last instructions vivid in their minds, they will certainly impel forward their resistance until final victory, to completely liberate SVN, to defend NVN, and contribute to the safeguarding of world peace and security.

SOUTH VIET NAM



Each tree is for the PLAF a fortification for the defence of their native land.

Political Program of the NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION OF SOUTH VIET NAM

II

To Build an Independent, Democratic, Peaceful, Neutral and Prosperous South Viet Nam

Editor's Note. – *To satisfy the demand of our many readers, on the occasion of the 9th Anniversary of the NFL's founding, we publish hereunder some concrete policies put forward by the NFL in its Political Program.*

The people of South Viet Nam are determined to defeat the US aggressors and their lackeys, and to devote themselves body and soul to building a political system that guarantees the independence and sovereignty of the nation and the freedom and happiness of the people, to heal the wounds of war, to liquidate the social evils left by the US-puppet regime, to restore normal life and build an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam. To achieve these objectives, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation lays down the following concrete policies:

1. TO SET UP A PROGRESSIVE REGIME OF BROAD DEMOCRACY

— To abolish the disguised colonial regime established by the US imperialists in South Viet Nam, to overthrow the puppet administration, hireling of the United States; not to recognize the puppet "national assembly" rigged up by the US imperialists and their lackeys; to abolish the "constitution" and all anti-national and anti-democratic laws enacted by the US imperialists and the puppet administration.

— To hold free general elections in order to set up a National Assembly in a really democratic way in accordance with the principle of universal, equal direct suffrage and secret ballot. This National Assembly will be the State body with the highest authority in South Viet Nam; it will work out a democratic constitution which fully embodies the most fundamental and most eager aspirations of all social strata in South Viet Nam and guarantee the establishment of a progressive State structure of broad democracy. To guarantee the immunity of the deputies to the National Assembly.

— To set up a democratic national-coalition government including the most representative persons among the various social strata, nationalities, religious communities, patriotic and democratic parties, patriotic personalities and forces which have contributed to the cause of national liberation.

— To proclaim and ensure broad democratic freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of the press and publication, freedom of assembly, trade-union freedom, freedom of association, freedom to form political parties, freedom of creed, freedom of demonstration.

To guarantee to all citizens inviolability of the body, freedom of residence, secrecy of correspondence, freedom of movement, the right to work and rest, and the right to study.

To enforce equality between men and women and equality among the various nationalities.

— To set free all persons detained by the US imperialists and the puppet administration on account of their patriotic activities.

— To dissolve the concentration camps set up in all forms by the US imperialists and their lackeys.

— To give all people who have had to seek asylum abroad because of the US-puppet regime, the right to return home to serve the country.

— To severely punish the die-hard cruel agents of the US imperialists.

2. TO BUILD AN INDEPENDENT AND SOVEREIGN ECONOMY; TO IMPROVE THE PEOPLE'S LIVING CONDITIONS

— To abolish the policy of economic enslavement and monopoly of the US imperialists. To confiscate the property of the US imperialists and their die-hard cruel agents and turn it into State property.

— To build an independent and sovereign economy. To rapidly heal the wounds of war, to restore and develop the economy so as to make the country strong and prosperous.

— To protect the citizens' right to ownership of means of production and other property in keeping with the laws of the State.

— To restore and develop agricultural production. To improve cultivation, animal husbandry, fish-rearing and forestry.

The State will encourage the peasants to unite and help one another boost production, grant them loans at low interest rates for the purchase of buffaloes, oxen, farm implements, agricultural machines, seeds, fertilizers, etc; help them develop irrigation works and apply advanced agricultural techniques.

To guarantee outlets for agricultural products.

— To restore and develop industry, small industries and handicrafts.

— To guarantee to the workers and employees the right to take part in the management of enterprises.

The State will encourage industrialist and traders to participate in the development of industry and handicrafts.

To ensure freedom of enterprise beneficial to national construction and the people's welfare; to apply a customs policy designed to promote and protect home-production.

— To restore and develop communications and transport.

To encourage and step up economic exchanges between town and country, between the plains and the mountain areas.

To give due consideration to the interests of small traders and small shop-owners.

To set up a State bank and create an independent currency.

— To apply an equitable and rational tax policy.

The State will adopt a policy of granting loans at low interest rates to encourage production, and will prohibit usury.

— To develop economic relations with the North; the two zones will help each other so that Viet Nam's economy may prosper rapidly.

— In accordance with the Front's policy of neutrality and the principles of equality, mutual benefit and respect for the independence and sovereignty of the Vietnamese nation, foreign trade will be expanded, and economic and technical assistance from foreign countries will be accepted, regardless of their political and social systems.

3. TO IMPLEMENT THE LAND POLICY, TO CARRY OUT THE SLOGAN "LAND TO THE TILLER'

— To confiscate the lands of the US imperialists and the die-hard cruel landlords, their lackeys, and allot these lands to landless or land-poor peasants.

— To confirm and protect the peasant's ownership of the lands allotted to them by the revolution.

— The State will negotiate the purchase of land from landlords who possess land upward of a certain amount varying with the situation in each locality; it will allot these lands to landless or land-poor peasants. The recipients will receive the lands free of charge, and will not be bound by any condition whatsoever. In areas where the required conditions for land-reform do not yet obtain, land rent will be reduced.

— To entrust the lands belonging to absentee landlords to peasants for cultivation and enjoyment of the produce. Adequate steps will be taken on this subject at a later stage upon consideration of the political attitude of each landlord.

— To allow landlords to offer land to the Liberation Peasants' Association or to the State. The Liberation Peasants' Association and the State will allot those lands to landless or land-poor peasants.

— To encourage the owners of industrial crop or fruit-tree plantations to keep production going.

— To respect the legitimate right to land ownership of churches, pagodas and holy sees of religious sects.

— To carry out a fair and rational re-distribution of communal lands.

— To guarantee the legitimate right to ownership of reclaimed lands to those who have reclaimed them.

— Those who have been herded into "strategic hamlets" or concentration camps of any form are free to return to their former villages.

— Those who have been compelled to "evacuate" or to "move away" and who wish to stay where they are, will enjoy ownership of the lands and other property resulting from their labour, and will be helped so that they can continue earning their living in those places; those who wish to return to their native places will also receive help.

4. TO BUILD A NATIONAL AND DEMOCRATIC CULTURE AND EDUCATION, TO DEVELOP SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, TO PROMOTE PUBLIC HEALTH

— To eliminate the American-type enslaving and depraved culture and education now adversely affecting our people's fine, long-standing cultural traditions.

— To build a national and democratic culture and education; to develop science and technology to serve national construction and defence.

— To educate the people in the Vietnamese nation's tradition of struggle against foreign invasion and its heroic history. To preserve and develop the fine culture and good customs and habits of our nation.

— To raise the people's cultural standard: to liquidate illiteracy, to promote complementary education; to open new general-education schools, higher-education establishments and vocational schools. To make all-out efforts to train and foster scientific workers, technicians and skilled workers.

To use the Vietnamese language as teaching medium in higher-education establishments.

To reduce school and college fees; to exempt poor pupils and students from school fees, and grant them scholarships.

To reform the system of examinations.

— To give every possible help to the youths and children who have rendered services in the fight against US aggression for national salvation, the children of families who have rendered services to the revolution, and other outstanding youths so as to enable them to study and develop their capabilities.

— All citizens have the right to carry out freely scientific and technological researches, to devote themselves to literary and artistic creation, and to participate in other cultural activities; to encourage intellectuals, writers, artists and scientists and afford them favourable conditions for research work, creation and invention in the service of the fatherland and the people.

To give help to cultural workers, writers and artists who have been persecuted by the US imperialists and their lackeys owing to their patriotic activities.

— To develop health services, hygiene and prophylaxis. To attend to the people's health, to prevent and eliminate epidemics, to do away with dangerous diseases left by the US-puppet regime.

— To develop physical culture and sports.

— To develop cultural relations with the North; the two zones will help each other raise the people's educational level and foster talent.

— To promote cultural relations with foreign countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

5. TO SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF FACTORY AND OFFICE WORKERS AND OTHER LABOURING PEOPLE ANE SEE TO THEIR LIVEHOOD

— To promulgate labour legislation, and put into pratice the 8-hour working day; to provide for a regime of rest and recreation; to set up a rational system of wages and bonuses for increased productivity.

— To improve the living and working conditions of workers, labourers and civil servants.

— To apply a policy of adequate remuneration for apprentices.

— To see to the employment of workers and poor urban people; actively to do away with unemployment.

— To put into practice a social-security policy in order to care for and assist workers, labourers and civil servants in case of disease, incapacitation, old age or retirement.

— To improve living conditions in working people's residential quarters.

— To settle disputes between employers and employees through negotiations between the two sides and mediation by the national-democratic administration.

— To strictly prohibit ill-treatment of workers and labourer; to strictly prohibit wage deductings fines and unjustified sacking of workers.

6. TO BUILD POWERFUL SOUTH VIET NAM LIBERATION ARMED FORCES IN ORDER TO EMANCIPATE THE PEOPLE AND DEFEND THE FATHERLAND

— The South Viet Nam Liberation Armed Forces (comprising the regular units, the regional troops, and the militia and guerilla units) are sprung from the people; they are boundlessly loyal to the interests of the fatherland and the people, and duty-bound to fight shoulder to shoulder with the entire people to liberate the South, defend the fatherland and make an active contribution to the defence of peace in Asia and in the world.

— To pay due attention to the building of the Liberation Armed Forces. To strive to raise their quality and increase their fighting capacity with a view to stepping up the people's war, defeating the US, satellite and puppet troops, and bringing the fight against US aggression, for national salvation, to complete victory.

— To strengthen political work with a view to enhancing the patriotism and determination to fight and win of the Liberation Armed Forces; to raise their sense of discipline; to continuously tighten the "fish-and-water" relations between the army and the people.

— Officers and men of the Liberation Armed Forces enjoy the right to vote and to stand for election, and enjoy land rights and all other citizen rights.

7. TO SHOW GRATITUDE TO WAR MARTYRS, TO CARE FOR DISABLED ARMYMEN, TO REWARD ARMYMEN AND CIVILIANS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST US AGGRESSION, FOR NATIONAL SALVATION

The entire people are grateful to, and constantly honour, the memory of war martyrs of the Liberation Armed Forces and of all other revolutionary services and organizations, and those who laid down their lives in political struggles. Their families are cared for and assisted by the State and the people.

— To give care and assistance to armymen and civilians disabled in the course of armed and political struggle.

— To reward in a worthy manner all armymen and civilians who have distinguished themselves in the struggle against US aggression, for national salvation.

Families who have rendered services to the revolution will be remembered and will receive help.

8. TO ORGANIZE SOCIAL RELIEF

— To give relief to compatriot victims of the war of aggression unleashed by the US imperialists and the puppet regime.

— To care for orphans, old folk and invalid people. To organize relief work in areas affected by natural calamities or bad crops.

— To give consideration also to disabled puppet soldiers and to needy and helpless families of puppet soldiers killed in action.

— To help those driven to depravation by the US imperialists and their lackeys rebuild their lives, thereby enabling them to serve the fatherland and the people.

9. TO CARRY OUT EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN; TO PROTECT MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

— To pay utmost attention to raising the political, cultural and vocational standard of the women, in view of their merits in the struggle against US aggression, for national salvation. To develop the Vietnamese women's tradition of heroism, dauntlessness, fidelity and ability to shoulder responsibilities.

— Women are equal to men in the political, economic, cultural and social fields.

— Women who do the same job receive same salary and allowances and enjoy the same rights as men.

— Women workers and civil servants enjoy two months' maternity leave with full pay, before and after childbirth.

— To apply a policy of actively favouring, fostering and training women cadres.

— To promulgate progressive marriage and family regulations.

— To protect the rights of mothers and children. To develop the network of maternity homes, creches and kindergartens.

— To eliminate all social evils brought about by the US imperialists and their lackeys, which are harmful to women's health and dignity.

10. TO STRENGTHEN UNITY AND PRACTISE EQUALITY AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AMONG NATIONALITIES

— To abolish all systems and policies applied by the imperialists and their lackeys with a view to dividing, oppressing and exploiting the various nationalities. To oppose discrimination against and forcible assimilation of national minorities.

— To develop the long-standing tradition of unity and mutual assistance among the various fraternal nationalities in our country with a view to defending and building the country.

All nationalities are equal in rights and obligations.

— To implement the land policy with regard to peasants of national minorities. To encourage and help them settle down to sedentary life, improve their lands, develop economy and culture, and raise their living standard so as to catch up with the general standard of the people.

— The national minorities have the right to use their own spoken and written languages to develop their own culture and art; they have the right to maintain or change their customs and habits.

— To strive to train minority cadres so as to enable the minorities within a short time to manage local affairs by themselves.

— In the areas where national minorities live concentrated and where the required conditions prevail, autonomous zones will be established within independent and free Viet Nam.

11. TO RESPECT FREEDOM OF CREED, TO ACHIEVE UNITY AND EQUALITY AMONG THE DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

— To counter all manoeuvres and tricks of the US imperialists and their lackeys, who use a number of persons putting on the cloak of religion to oppose our people's struggle against US aggression, for national salvation, sow dissension between believers and non-believers and among different religious communities, and harm the country, the people and religion.

— To respect freedom of creed and worship. To preserve pagodas, churches, sanctuaries, temples.

All religions are equal and are not subject to any discrimination.

— To achieve unity among believers of various religions, and between believers and the entire people, for the sake of the struggle against the US aggressors and their lackeys to defend and build the country.

12. TO WELCOME PUPPET OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS AND PUPPET OFFICIALS BACK TO THE JUSTE CAUSE; TO SHOW LENIENCY AND GIVE HUMANE TREATMENT TO RALLIED ARMYMEN AND PRISONERS-OF-WAR

— To oppose the US imperialists' and the puppet administration's attempts to pressgang mercenaries to serve the US aggressors against the fatherland and massacre the people.

To severely punish the die-hard thugs acting as obedient agents of the US imperialists.

— To afford conditions for puppet officers and soldiers and puppet officials to come back to the just cause and join the people's fight against US aggression to save country and family.

Individuals, groups or units of the puppet army and administration who have fought against US aggression for national salvation, will be rewarded and promoted to adequate positions. Those who sympathize with and support the struggle against US aggression, for national salvation, or those who refuse to carry out orders of the US imperialists and puppets to harm the people, will have their merits recorded.

Individuals, groups or units who have broken away from the puppet army and voluntarily apply to join the Liberation Armed Forces for fighting against the US aggression to save the country are welcomed and enjoy equal treatment.

Regarding those groups or units who have broken away from the puppet army and administration and risen against the US aggressors to save the country, the Front stands ready for joint action with them against the US aggressors, on a basis of equality, mutual respect and assistance so as to protect the people and liberate the fatherland.

— Functionaries of the puppet administration who volunteer to serve the fatherland and the people in State services after the liberation of South Viet Nam will enjoy equal treatment.

— Those in the puppet army and puppet administration at any level who have committed crimes against the people but are now sincerely repentant will be pardoned. Those who redeem their crimes by meritorious deeds will be rewarded accordingly.

Captured officers and soldiers of the puppet army will enjoy humane treatment and leniency.

— US and satellite officers and soldiers who cross over to the people's side will be given kind treatment and helped to return to their families when conditions permit.

— Captured US and satellite troops will receive the same treatment as captured puppet troops.

13. TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF OVERSEAS VIETNAMESE

— To hail the patriotism of overseas Vietnamese and highly value all their contributions to the people's resistance to US aggression, for national salvation.

— To protect the rights and interests of overseas Vietnamese.

— To help all overseas Vietnamese who wish to return to the country to take part in national construction.

14. TO PROTECT THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN SOUTH VIET NAM

— To hail those foreign residents who have contributed to the Vietnamese people's resistance to US aggression, for national salvation.

— All foreign residents living in South Viet Nam must respect the independence and sovereignty of Viet Nam and abide by the law of the national-democratic administration.

— To protect the legitimate rights and interests of all foreign residents who have not co-operated with the US imperialists and their henchmen in opposing the Vietnamese people, and who have not harmed the independence and sovereignty of Viet Nam. To give adequate consideration to the rights and interests of those foreign residents who have directly or indirectly supported the Vietnamese people's resistance to US aggression for national salvation.

— To resolutely oppose and abolish all policies of the US imperialists and their henchmen aimed at sowing dissension between the Vietnamese people and Chinese residents in South Viet Nam, exploiting, repressing, and assimilating, Chinese residents.

— To punish the die-hard agents and secret agents of the US imperialists and the South Viet Nam puppet administration.

Undeniable evidences

WHAT would you think if you saw a person killed in cold blood before your eyes? What would you think if many persons, men and women and children and newly-born babies were stabbed to death, had their throats cut or their bellies ripped open, were slaughtered by machinegun shots fired point-blank, or thrown into flames which turned them into living torches?

It's probably a movie episode, you would say. Too much even for an American.

Well, it's not movie, but reality — one of the many horrible realities which have become common occurrences in South Viet Nam.

I know someone who, against her own will, has witnessed such horrors.

Her name is Vo Thi Lien. She is slender, fragile, too little for her age. At 12 she looks like an eight-year old at most to a European. Oval-faced, jet-black-eyed and smooth-haired, she speaks quietly as though to repress the flow of sentiments ready to burst out all at a time. She recounts what she has seen with her own eyes and felt in the bottom of her heart, soberly and tersely.

"... On March 16, 1968 "Lien said", in early morning, bullets rained on my village. At once my family took refuge in a shelter..."

Her village is Son My located in Son Tinh district, Quang Ngai province, South Viet Nam.

"Then", Lien went on, "the Americans broke in ..."

What followed, you already know through world press reports, primarily American ones. Those who perpetrated the monstrous crimes have themselves supplied profused details in November.

Listen howe ver to the eye-witness, or rather the victim, who narrowly escaped the mass murder of 567 persons by enraged GIs at Son My on that day of March 16 last year:

When we knew that they all had been in the village, grandma, who was with grandpa and me in the same shelter get out first".

"Did she?" I asked.

"Yes, since order had been given to leave the undergrounds on the arrival of the Americans. Anyone who refused to comply would be regarded as VC and shot on the spot.

"So, grandma was safe and sound, I hope?"

"Not at all!" Said Lien, tears in her eyes. And with a choked voice she continued, "She was hit at the chest and collapsed at the entrance to the underground."

"Really".

"I myself was about to get out. But grandma's body blocked the way out. Then I was dazzled by a flare and heard an explosion. I lay senseless. They had tossed a grenade into the shelter... When I came to, I found grandma dead, part of her head smashed away by a splinter... Completely dismayed I went in search of my dear ones."

What the girl found was Dante's inferno: dead and dying persons with throats cut or bellies ripped open — all of them well known to her, and among them her own relatives — and houses swallowed by flames...

Vo Thi Lien, a little girl of 12, a survivor of the Son My massacre.

That woman lying flat on her back was Lien's aunt Vo Thi Thu with her one-year-old baby sticking to her breast for milk. Both had died. Another one, killed close to the shelter entrance was cousin Thiet, her body mained by bayonets. Beside her lay six-month child, also dead."

"So, many members of your family were killed?"

"Eighteen in all" said Lien, who named the victims: her grand uncles and grand aunts — Mr and Mrs Tang, Mr and Mrs Mai — her aunts Sau. Phu, Luu, Hong, Muoi, and her cousins Phuc, Anh and Luu... Grand uncle Mai's beard was burnt by fire and his body bore bayonet traces.

That's the story as was told by one of the survivors of the Son My massacre. Of course, little Lien could not but say what she had seen with her own eyes. Evidences supplied by other witnesses have establishel that well over 500 people-all of them civilians, including old-aged ones, pregnant women, children and babies — had been slaughtered with unconceivable savagery. On the other hand, since November culprits — American GIs who had taken part the Son My operation — have publicly owned up their crimes in US press. Their confessions corroborate the charge raised by the NFL Central Trung Bo Committee.

All that, as you can judge by yourself, is no movie at all, but the routine work of the American expeditionary troops in South Viet Nam, whom Nixon does not want at any cost to withdraw despite his repeated declarations intended merely to deceive world and American opinion.

You who fought in World War II have experienced Hitlerite atrocities. You have seen Oradour and Lidice, sinister names which make you gnash your teeth and fly into a rage.

Well, dear friends, horrors like Oradour and Lidice count by the hundreds in Viet Nam. Son My is but one example. And there will be others so long as American GIs stay on in South Viet Nam with their B.52s, their tanks, their cluster, napalm and phosphorus bombs, their toxic chemicals, defoliants and other creations of the US war technique, which kill people in no while and everywhere — in their villages, their houses, kindergartens, hospitals, creches, schools, churches and pagodas, and newly-born babies' cradles. At stake in the current struggle against such barbarity is the life of an entire people, the destiny of mankind, human civilization.

Meanwhile, Nixon and company keep manœuvring to postpone indefinitely the pullout of American troops announced six months ago with much propaganda warfare. Their obvious intention is to prolong their aggressive war with a new formula — "Vietnamization" — and, consequently, new Vietnamese Oradours and Lidices.

Is Nixon so cynical and impenitent as to go on challenging human conscience and lovers of peace and justice around the world?

HO MAI BAC

November 1969

SON MY is not the only massmurder by GIs

THERE are horrors which defy man's imagination and bestialities that make you shudder which the Pentagon nonetheless praises as feats of troops of the "free world". In South Viet Nam the "quintessence" of these atrocities can be seen in the policies of terror recommended by the American government and now put into application.

The monstrous slaughter by the US troops at Son My has shocked and sickened universal conscience. However, Son My was not the only case. Back from the beginning of 1968 alone, the American aggressors and their allies have committed hundreds of massacres and put to medieval torture innocent civilians, the most typical of which are listed below:

— On February 24 and 25, 1968, at Dien Hong, Cam Ha and Dien An (Quang Nam), the GIs, Pak Jung Hi and puppet troops killed 339 people.

— On March 16, 1968 the American soldiers killed over 500 people at Son My (Quang Ngai province).

— At the same time, in fifteen minutes, during a morning raid the GIs cut down 30 peasants working in the fields at Chu Lai (Quang Nam province).

— From January to June 1969, the US Ninth Infantry Division slaughtered 3,000 people in the provinces of My Tho and Ben Tre.

— On January 13, 1969, the US-puppets massacred 1,500 people at Ba Lang An.

— On February 26, 1969, they arrested, tortured and mowed down 1,500 people at Kong H'Ring in the High Plateaux (Operation Song Than).

— On August 28, 1969, they savagely tortured 1,400 people arbitrarily detained in Thu Duc prison, causing the death of many among them and crippling many others for life.

— From September 24 to November 20, 1969, the Yankee aggressors butchered over 700 people at Khanh Lam, Khanh Binh, Khanh An, Tran Hoi... in U Minh area (Rach Gia-Ca Mau).

— On November 14, 1969, at Dai Thanh (Can Tho) the US troops shot dead 17 people and atrociously tortured many others (Operation Quyet Thang).

— In February and March 1969, the GIs of the Americal Division at Chu Lai (Quang Nam) launched many operations and exacted a toll of over 100 people (among them 60 women) working in the fields.

— In mid-March 1969, the US-puppets at Thang Binh (Quang Nam) mounted several raids, killing within two days 120 people busy fishing and tilling the fields.

— In April 1969, they manhandled and tortured 200 people arbitrarily detained in Chi Hoa prison...

— By the end of October 1969, an outfit of the Americal Division razed 13 villages in Quang Ngai province.

— Meanwhile other GIs of the same Division razed 258 villages out of the 487 existing in Quang Nam province.

— About the toxic chemicals: Since Nixon's installation, the American troops have sprayed toxic poisons and gas affecting 285,000 people (including 500 lethally) and destroying more than 905,000 hectares of crops.

— Use of B.52's for daily bombings: Since US President Nixon took office; the B.52's have flown 1,200,000 sorties against the South Vietnamese people.

The crime on Hill 192

The French paper "France Soir" on October 29, 1969 published an article under the title "The raping, then murdering of a young South Vietnamese by four US soldiers is rousing America".

The article wrote:

AN atrocious story is rousing the Americans. It is about a young South Vietnamese, beaten, raped and finally murdered by an American patrol. It has been raised by the magazine "New Yorker" following the confession by one member of this patrol...

The raping and murdering of a young South Vietnamese girl by four American soldiers — who came to pick her up as an animal in a hut where she was sleeping with her parents, forced her to join in their patrol by making her carry their package, abused her for 24 hours on end, then murdered her in cold blood "so that she does not speak out" — will no doubt become the subject of a film some day.

The title is already found "The crime on Hill 192" because on maps of the American Staff, it is the name of a bushy peak in the High Plateaux where the four GIs left their victim stabbled and her skull broken by bullets. And if their denouncer — a fifth soldier who participated in the patrol and was the horrified witness of the events — has made known to the American press a silence which he had kept for two years for fear of vengeance against himself, his wife and his child, it is because he had been tormented by remorses.

Published in a great magazine last week, "The crime on Hill 192" has horrified the Americans, not only its atrocious content but that it revealed the mentality of an army in which, from officers down to soldiers, none blame the crime considered by them to be 'normal' or "unimportant', and in which pressures and menaces, whether veiled or not, were used against the "denouncer".

"Your accusations," the captain told him, "risk to blur the image of the army right at a time when the latter is facing combat dangers. The enemy will not fail to make use of the affair for his propaganda, etc..

In spite of this and other things, the soldier Eriksson the name he assumed when he gave his resounding account persisted in demanding justice to little Phan Thi Mao the memory of whom haunted his conscience.

Returning today to his native Minnesota where he has resumed his former carrer as carpenter, Eriksson knew what should still cost him his conscience and some insults it has inflicted on him: in addition to the ostracism and disapproval from his comrades and superiors, he narrowly escaped a "fire by mistake" from an American patrol in which, as by hazard, war found one of the four participants involved in "the crime on Hill 192" before the latter were arrested.

Written in simple terms, Eriksson's version upsets the conscience of the Americans with regard to the fact that it took place in South Viet Nam and that little Pham Thi Mao, 18 years old, was precisely an "ally" of those whom the American army is supposed to protect and defend against the horrors of the invasion from the North.

On November 16, 1966, Eriksson related, the lieutenant appointed him and three of his comrades and a sergeant to make a five-day reconnaissance patrol in Bong Son valley.

To his great amazement, Eriksson heard the sergeant say: "We are going to seek a girl and take her with us. This is good for the morale of the soldier...."

Eriksson thought it a joke. But the following morning, when the patrol set out, he saw that the sergeant went not toward the valley, but toward the miserable Cat Tuong hamlet. There, always under the sergeant's conduct, the three men - Eriksson remained outside - brutally sneaked into huts where the peasants and their families were still sleeping. At the fifth hut, the sergeant got out brandishing the electric torch in a triumphal manner, shouting: "There is a pretty girl inside, she has a gold tooth."

The three others hurried in to drag the young girl out of her hut. Terrified, the young Vietnamese clung to her sister, Phan Thi Loc, and to her mother who dragged herself along at the feet of the soldiers. The latter quickly tied Mao's hands behind her back and dragged her away. The mother ran wailing after them, with a neckerchief of the young girl in her hand.

"Thanks", said ironically one of the soldiers when the mother caught up with them, and he thrusted the kerchief into the mouth of the young girl to silence her. Exhausted, the mother fell to the ground, the patrol left with the prisoner.

Then followed hours of marching during which the sergeant hang his heavy package to the frail shoulders of the young girl as if she had been a donkey. The team finally came to an abandoned small hut. The five soldiers are outside. Mao, who was given nothing to eat, was inside. After the meal, the sergeant stretched himself out and said: "It is time for recreation". At this moment, before the disappointed look of Eriksson, he became angry and warned him that if he did not go on, he could well be victim of a strayed bullet...

Eriksson successively saw his four companions enter the hut and get out it untidy and hilarious. From inside, cries and sobbings from Mao were heard. The hard 'orgy' lasted two hours after which the sergeant and three men left again for patrol leaving the prisoner under the guard of the fourth man. On their return in the evening, the same scenes were renewed and the sergeant, exasperated by the girl's cries declared that this should be done with. After discussion, the men decided to kill Mao. The sergeant insisted that it should be a "collective act".

Thus, the day after the group was found near "Hill 192" peak, dragging Mao who got a fever and coughing. When he arrived, the sergeant saw in the plain five men who, finding themselves discovered, opened fire. The patrol returned fire, and the sergeant alerted the camp they had left last night by means of his radio. The lieutenant answered that he would send a helicopter. Mao should be got rid of urgently.

The sergeant put on guard Eriksson and another man, and together with the others dragged Mao to behind a rock.

"I hear a cry", Eriksson related, "and a kind of sharp sound like that of a knife cutting the throat of a deer in the hunting...."

The three men appeared again, and at this moment, Eriksson saw Mao on four legs, like a wounded animal which fled away. "Fire", shouted the sergeant, and the men let go their shots altogether (Eriksson shot in the air). The girl succumbed in the bushes. One man ran toward her and put her out of her pain...".

GANG RAPE, MURDER AT XUAN NGOC

ON the night of September 23, 1966, a squad of nine Marines were assigned to ambush duty near the hamlet of Xuan Ngoc in the province of Quang Ngai. There had been very little VC activity in the area for months and it should, logically, have been a routine, actionless night. The squad, however, decided to do a little free-lance VC suspect hunting in the neighbouring hamlet.

In all they hit ten huts. The general pattern was a severe beating on the husband, roughing-up of the wife and terrorising of the children. In one hut they sat five children on a bunk and surrounded them with a pyre of firewood which they threatened to ignite. In another they prepared a 16-year-old girl for a gang rape. She was loosed, however, when the Corpsman, after examining her loins by flashlight, diagnosed venereal disease. As there was a complete linguistic barrier it was impossible for the villagers to pass on information about the VC, even supposing they had any. The climax of the operation came at the tenth hut. The Corpsman, employing his flashlight again, found the young mother there free from infection. Five of the squad raped her in succession.

The husband, under guard outside the hut, set up such a din that the Marines became rattled. They proceeded to gun down the entire family: husband, sister, wife and two children...

(Excerpt from The Sunday Times No 23, 69)

A GI tying a rope around the neck of Ba Lang An civilians to drag them away for a massacre.

The checkered kerchief

Not until the checkered kerchief had been passed to the last of the fighters, who were sprawling on the ground resting, did its possessor, a youthful soldier, sat up among its mates. And in a voice frayed with emotion, he began the following story:

I got seriously wounded during a furious rush, and was sent to a medical station in Western Nam Bo. The two fettering wounds, one on the head and the other in the thigh, kept me in a coma all the time. Finally when I came to, it was night. In the few brief seconds that I lay in semi-consciousness, I vaguely perceived a feminine form clad in black pyjamas bending over me, covering me with an extra blanket and tucking the mosquito netting around me.

In the morning, I felt better. I was able to take some rice soup and was lying under my blanket when someone approached my cot. "My son, if you wish, Mum can carry you to the latrine," the stranger whispered to me.

The words "Mum can carry you" made me stick my head out of the blanket. And what did I see? An old woman with very white hair and stooping shoulders. She stroked my forehead lightly, and flashed a broad smile, which showed her few remaining teeth.

"How I worried about you last night! I prayed and prayed God for your prompt recovery," she said.

The more I looked at her, the more she ressembled my mother-the same lean, kind face, the same high cheekbonnes, the same sunken eyes.

I was about to ask here where she came from and how long had she been here, when she took hold of my wrist.

"Why are you so taciturn my boy?" she asked. "Are you married? Now take some food, and you'll be soon up and about and back to your unit again." And she began feeding me spoonful after spoonful of rice-soup.

Thus began our acquaintance.

Throughout my stay at the station, I never saw her take a nap at midday. Hardly had lunch been over when she would set out to gather fire wood, even in a blazing sun. To our insistence upon a rest at noon, she merely said, "Don't you worry, my boys. Besides, this is my way of whiling away noon time."

Cooking here was a complicated job — different meal times and different dishes for different patients. Yet, she performed the task thoughtfully, and her face would beam with pleasure when she saw us take our food with relish.

Once we told her that, when at home, we used to have our favourite dishes — boiled or grilled shrimp and fish soup.

"Silly boys," she said laughingly. "You can't expect such delicacies when you're fighting."

The next afternoon, however, I saw her go out with some shrimp pot. At dinner, she proudly displayed on the table boiled shrimp, roasted shrimp, and even fish soup, flavoured with pepper and fresh onion.

"Now, have a good feed," she invited us. Two shrimps for each, and the odd ones for the weakest of you, as extra."

For a month, wounded soldiers kept streaming in steadily from the front. As the station was short-staffed, she looked after us day and night, sometimes, singing to those who could not sleep because of their smarting wounds. Her melodious voice and her stories in verse, among them the very popular "Luc Van Tien" and the "Thach Sanh" acted like a balm on many of us and lulled us into a soothing sleep.

She was visibly run down because of those sleepless nights. "Look, Mum," the head of the station once told her. "Go home for some rest. If you don't, we'll have to force you to."

Without answering, she only wiped a few tears off the corners of her eyes with a flap of her jacket.

Knowing that she was hurt, I tried to cheer her up. As first I was not successful. When at last I brought her round, she said to me.

"Do you think what that man said to me made any sense? Look, I've lived here for two years, and have come to know everybody.

At home, I'll be quite lonely. My two sons in the PLAF, died in action the year before last. In my grief, I once wanted to put an end to my life. Later I found out that I had been wrong. And so, I offered my service to this station. Looking at you, and seeing you eat and sleep and sing is my sole comfort now. I've decided to stay here as long as I live. Who knows, I may see Uncle Ho one day?"

Her confidence brought us closer together and I would miss her whenever she was for a while. More and more, her lean, sun-tanned face and her gentle simile reminded me of my mother. I made up my mind to tell her of my feeling when I left.

The day of my departure, she gave me a ball of compressed rice wrapped in a banana leaf and a big piece of fried fish.

"Take care of yourself," she said. "And remember to write me upon you arrival."

She was not present when I actually left the hospital. She was busy feeding a new patient.

Heavy-hearted, I made for the ferry. I had not been able to tell her what I felt. She had lost her sons, and I was an orphan.

"Hey, Ba. Wait a little." She was scurrying after me, her conic hat in her hand, her checkered kerchief fluttering round her neck.

"Here's some pocket money for you," she said, fishing out of her pocket a small parcel. "You can buy some gift for your chums with it, too."

I didn't want to take it; but knowing too well her quick temper, I complied.

"So long, my boy. My love to all your pals," she turned away quickly, already in tears.

I followed her with my eyes, till the checkered kerchief vanished behind the coconut groves...

* * *

"Well, what happened after that? Where's she now?" the liaison boy asked the teller of the story.

It was far into the night now. A chill wind was blowing from the river.

"Last month I returned to the old place," the fighter with the checkered kerchief said after a long silence."

"I didn't meet her, only the nurse, who gave me this," he continued, holding up the kerchief reverently. "And this is what the nurse told me about 'Mum':

One day during the third wave of general offensives and widespread uprisings, 'Mum' joined in a march upon the district town. The enemy at Post X opened fire at the marchers. The column was stopped short.

'Don't be scared, folks,' she shouted to the other people. And, rushing up to the front rank, she snatched the slogan banner from the young girl who was holding it, and raised it high.

The demonstrators resumed the march behind her. Another salvo from the enemy. She was wounded in the arm. A crowd pressed around her.

'Don't you worry about me! Get on! Get on!' Her voice was imperative. 'Picket the house of the district chief, the scoundrel.'

And everybody obeyed the order."

* * *

A whistle blew shrilly in the dark night, and the fighters hurriedly got up to fall in line.

The young man wound the checkered kerchief around his neck, took up his rifle. He was seen later in the van of the moving column.

HA DUONG

At the other end of the trench

At the crossroads we parted,
A close distance to the front line,
A long time I stood,
Your brown shirt lingering in my mind.
A long, long time I stood,
As you crossed the line.
Pocked was the ground
With angry craters,
Farewell, sweetheart
But together we remained,
For our roads both led
To where the guns were firing.

∴

Stars bloom in the sky
Like flowers in the fields,
I think of you at the other end
Of our combat trench.
Perhaps between two battles,
You're looking at the stars,
And their twinkling eyes
Remind you of our child.
How true it is, oh sweetheart,
For a mother leaving for the front,
Climbing the thousand peaks of the Truong Son
Is easier than crossing the abyss of motherly grief.

∴

Oh the longing eyes of our child
Never leave my mind,
Even in the fire of battle,
Even in long nightly marches.
With my gun against my shoulder,
And my chest pressing the damp earth,
Something stirs in my heart.
At the other end of the trench
You too are firing.

TRUONG KHONG TU

Translated from the Vietnamese by DTB

A pretty little stage, tiny marionettes: a special show for children, whose imagination is so easily carried away by legends and fantasies.

In the present hard conditions of the implacable war forced upon the people of South Viet Nam, the art of marionette shows not only is not neglected, but is quickly developing. This is evidence of the all-sided solicitude of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, which pay constant attention to the spiritual life of the people and especially that of the children, those young shoots of the nation.

The cute marionettes are put in action by artists hidden behind the stage. I would like to talk about these child artists working the strings of the puppets: they are the main characters in this film rich in meaning, emotion and also artistic value, with Lam Tran as script-writer and Hong Chi as director and cameraman. They are spending their childhood in air raid shelters and combat trenches, under deluges of bombs. Before they came into the world, in the bosom of their mothers, they were imbued with the patriotic tradition of a dauntless people. They have grown up in deep hatred of aggressive imperialism. And if we were given the opportunity to study the circumstances of their lives, there would be nothing more interesting. Some bear the names of hamlets now recorded in the history of Viet Nam. Others have lost both their parents, who died for the people's cause and whose death left their children with undying hatred for the enemy.

The children are now living in an atmosphere of seething patriotism. They have become young liberation fighters and are now serving the revolution. Of course their abilities are only those of children, but they are inspired by great nobility of mind. There are neither flowers nor butterflies along the path leading to the studio where they work. They have to weave their way past enormous bomb craters, through defoliated forests. Wherever they work or perform, they keep themselves in combat readiness, for danger may crop up at any time, and they may have to fight and die as simply and as heroically as their fathers and their elders. This does not prevent them from going to work with joy and enthusiasm, as simple and fresh as young bamboo shoots: in fact they wear "Bamboo Shoot" badges on the breast of their shirts.

Isn't it true that their attitude springs from the revolutionary optimism of the people of South Viet Nam, infused into them since early childhood? Isn't it true that a relaxed deportment comes naturally to victors?

As we watch the film, our affection for them grows and we feel also esteem and respect. For these children are true artists. They have worked hard and overcome many difficulties. They have evinced perseverance and creative imagination. How can one help sharing the joy of a child artist dressing his marionettes in beautiful clothes he has made himself? How can one contain one's emotion listening to a child singer putting all his soul into these lines of a South Vietnamese folk song:

> **The lotus is the finest**
> **Flower in the Plain of Reeds,**
> **Ho Chi Minh is the**
> **Finest name in the land of**
> **Viet Nam**

The film "Art and Youth", a moving combat song

Those children fighting on the front of art and culture give us a faithful image of South Vietnamese children engaged in struggle.

After "The Road to the Front", which received a gold medal at the 1959 Moscow Festival, Hong Chi presents in this film other characteristic features of his people and his country. It deals with children, these "young shoots" of his nation. The film will not fail to arouse in all men of conscience just indignation at a barbarous and stupid war of aggression and deep admiration for a people full of heroism and virile optimism.

"Art and Youth" is a moving epic of great simplicity. Highly poetic, it introduces us into that magnificent realm, that of the soul of the man of Viet Nam. Spring is blooming in South Viet Nam in spite of this cruel historical reality: the patriotic war for national salvation.

There lies the specific feature of liberation art in South Viet Nam, which seeks to depict a beautiful country and a heroic people in the Ho Chi Minh era.

H. V. T.

On the Bu Prang — Duc Lap front

TWO DECISIVE ENGAGEMENTS

The news of the US-puppets coming filled with more impatience the Darlac liberation troops spoiling for a fight. "Let us carry out Uncle Ho's last directions!" they said. "Let us show the American aggressors our people's resolve to defeat them!"

Arriving at the staging area at 2:00 hours, our fighters restlessly waited for daybreak. Now and then adverse cannons were heard booming in the direction of Duc Lap and flares were seen shooting up as if to dispel a gnawing fear.

At dawn, Highway 14 southwest of Duc Lap appeared like a snake worming its way along the mountain slopes. In their positions, our men calmly kept their guns at the ready and watched the road.

At 5:40 hours (November 4), upon a signal our fighters opened fire on the battalion of puppet Rangers from many sides. These were cruel "leopard spotted" (*) mercenaries helilifted the day before to probe the terrain for a relief operation and had to regroup west of Highway 14 under the pressure of regional troops and guerillas. Within a few minutes our spearheads led by Ty, Xuan and Hoa assaulted the enemy positions with sub-machineguns and grenades, wiping out a company.

Another surprise thrust into the battalion CP from behind, sent the adversary flying helter skelter.

Our men were close on their heels. More than a hundred Rangers' bodies littered the battlefield. We destroyed most of the radio-sets, captured many prisoners and collected a lot of weapons and military equipment. Less than a hundred of them escaped and regrouped a kilometre north of Highway 14 but nearly all of them were wiped out at 4:00 hours the next day (November 5) by the Liberation troops. Thus the battalion of puppet Rangers, the vanguard of a relief column, was virtually written off.

The adversary furiously bombed and shelled the surroundings of Highway 14, they sent in rescue battalion I of Regiment 53, one company of Regiment 45, one remaining company of Rangers and one armoured troop from Duc Lap. This move was anticipated by our fighters. Reports poured in from our observation posts:

— A platoon of scouts was reconnoitring the terrain.

— The first company was 500 metres from our positions.

— The Second and Third companies together with the motorized units were coming.

Sitting at his HQ, the CO calmly ordered our attacking sections to get ready.

"Hammer at the vanguard, seal off the rearguard and don't let a single enemy escape!"

The adverse column kept on advancing.

Our shock teams led by Sy, Tuong and Loan opened up with their submachineguns. Scores of enemy men fell on the highway. Some hid themselves behind the trees on both sides of the road and fired back to cover their signalmen calling for help. But they were knocked out by Sai's team. Meanwhile team leader Chien managed to cut down 45 adverse troops sheltering in a bomb crater with two shells of B40. Soon the two enemy companies reeled under the blows of section 10.

At the same time, the shock teams led by Tan, The, Hung and Bang rushed forward to chop the bulk of the enemy forces to pieces. Following on their heels, our fighters assaulted the infantry and the armour, a section leader killed an enemy soldier with a pistol shot and 5 others with grenades. Now they bunched to hold out. But it was too late, team leader Bang bagged 20 enemy men on two nearby armoured personnel carriers, while Duyet blasted out of use two other cars with his anti-tank device, and silenced their machineguns. Immediately after that, Duyet mowed down 12 footmen with his submachinegun. The other tanks and armoured carriers took to flight in disorder. Several armed helicopters flew in and strove to keep up the morale of the agonizing ground troops. But 3 were downed by our men and the remainder zoomed away.

Fired by their exploits, our fighters rapidly put the remaining adverse troops put of action.

To sum up in 2 engagements (November 4 and 5, 1969) on Highway 14 (southwest of Darlac) the Liberation troops wiped out a battalion of Rangers, inflicted heavy losses on Battalion I of Regiment 53 and on an armoured troop carrier, exacted a toll of 540, downed 3 aircraft, collected a lot of weapons, radio-sets and military equipment. The enemy left behind over 200 corpses. Thus a hard core puppet force, the backbone of the relief operation in the Bu Prang area, was smashed to smithereens. These two decisive engagements sealed the fate of the relief plan of the puppets in the Bu Prang — Duc Lap area and spelled out the inevitable fiasco of the US "Vietnamization" of the war of aggression against South Viet Nam.

(*) *because of their camouflaged uniforms.*

Highland guerillas

A short distance from the enemy position, the group took a sharp turn into the jungle, where the local combatants were waiting impatiently.

After a brief pow-wow with the guerillas, R'Cham Ok, the village Deputy-Commander and head of the group, led a guide and a few other men off to reconnoitre for the last time the target of their attack.

The falling night facilitated their advance a great deal, and the reconnaissance went without a hitch.

By 21 hrs. everybody had taken up position. R'Cham Ok and three other fighters noiselessly approached a big house, from which came a bluish, flickering light and a continuous whirring sound.

Looking into the building R'Cham Ok found a large group of Americans engrossed in a movie. He beckoned to his followers and, resting his anti-tank gun on the window-sill, fired a shot at the enemy. The sharp explosion was responded by a chorus of automatic gun fire from the three other fighters.

Leaving his friends to finish the job, R'Cham Ok darted off and, singlehanded, pulverized three blockhouses in succession.

Further in the camp, now alerted, he came face to face with three armoured cars, whose machines were warming up. Like in his previous feat, he knocked out all the three vehicles, each with just a shell.

By now the enemy had gathered their wits, and were firing furiously. Red-hot bullets chased one another in the night.

Unruffled, R'Cham Ok

The PLAF rush forward on the impetus of their victories

went about collecting his men. The retreat, however, was not without incident. An enemy machine gun suddenly opened up from a hidden bunker. Short of ammunition, R'Cham Ok took off a grenade and flung it at the last obstacle. Taking advantage of the dazzling flash that followed, he and his comrades vanished into the darkness.

WHILE R'Cham Ok was away from home his father had returned from the concentration camp, where the enemy's coaxing and threat had all failed to make him reveal the whereabouts of his son.

"My son is like a jungle bird, and it isn't for an old man like me to control his movement" was his only answer at the interrogation.

When R'Cham Ok got home, the old man had died from the wounds inflicted on him during his detention.

R'CHAM Ok's group is very popular with the regular forces. Once he and two other guerillas were asked to take part in an assault on Post M. With his tank-buster, R'Cham Ok demolished a billet. His two friends also did a good business with their tommy guns.

To the villagers, R'Cham Ok and his men are reliable defenders. Once the enemy arrived on three armoured cars to stop the people from going to the fields. R'Cham Ok called for four other fighters, and they set out for the road. A thoughtful leader, R'Cham Ok gave his inseparable gun to Nhoi to let him have a try, while he himself, wielding a hand-bomb, sprang up onto the running-board of one of the vehicles. Two GIs, blue with fear, clambered out of the car, and hid themselves under it. R'Cham Ok detonated the bomb, killing the other two occupants still in the car. This done, he gave a chase to the other GIs, trying to take them prisoner. As the rest of the enemy intervened, making it impossible for him to continue his hunt, R'Cham Ok shot a grenade forward, killing both the GIs he was pursuing.

Over the last two years, R'Cham Ok has taken part in 51 battles. His exploits—124 enemy including 77 Yanks killed, and 12 military vehicles among them 9 armoured cars, 2 aircraft, 13 fortifications, and 8 storages or barracks destroyed have won him the Liberation Exploit Order, First Class, from the PLAF Command of the High Plateaux Front.

Two years after liberation

Sculptor Thai Binh is erecting a statue of President Ho Chi Minh immediately after hearing the news of his death.

I came to HT at nightfall one day last September.

A heavy shower had just stopped. People were hurrying along village lanes: elderly ones to their production meetings or anti-illiteracy classes, and younger ones, men and women to the drill ground, carrying a wooden board with movable targets, and rifles slung over their shoulders.

From afar a loudspeaker announced: "Everybody is invited to take part tomorrow in the building of new combat positions and the digging of new communication-trenches". Gun reports were heard from the other side of National Highway No 1. On this side, puppet troops at NB fired sporadically from their post. The population's bustle went on, undisturbed. Walking in front of me was Mrs Nam, an elderly woman, president of the village People's Revolutionary Committee and member of the provincial People's Council.

"For nearly ten years", she told me "Our village has successfully faced up to despite its location in the immediate vicinity of adverse posts."

The following day, Thong — a guerilla deputy company commander — took me around to see the ruins of the former "strategic hamlet" and the new fighting village built in its place by the population during the last nearly two years. We went along endless combat ditches and climbed up gun emplacements of widely different shapes and sizes. This intricate defence network formed a veritable labyrinth. Had it not been for Thong's guidance I could not have found a way out. I asked the guerilla commander:

"What is the total length of the communication-trenches in the whole village?"

"Eighty kilometres. Not counting twenty thousand underground spike traps."

"Quite an achievement!" I thought to myself.

Having walked from one end to the other of a hamlet, I came to the next and stood on an open space littered with bricks scattered over the trunk and branches of an old, huge uprooted tree. "This place", Thong said, "was called the "Temple of Literature" area. There was a temple with a traditional roof curved at the lower end, a marvellous "eight-fairy grotto" and a venerated centuries-old tree. The local people were proud of the cultural relic bequeathed them by their ancestors. But the Americans and their agents had levelled the site with bulldozers to build a 'strategic hamlet".

I read this inscription on a lonely stele:

Tortured to incapacity:	378
Detained in the provincial prison:	60
Deported to Poulo Condor Island:	4
Killed on the spot	: 35

100 hectares of ricefield and 50 hectares of orchards plundered.

All the graves in the village had been flattened, with no traces left.

All that was written in black in a frame with this lineat the bottom of the stele:

This blood debt must be paid for by the enemy. Never forget it, countrymen!

Thong took out a cigarette and, glancing all around, he said with a strong resolve in his voice; "That's right! They must pay for this debt. We have risen up, the whole village has risen up, dismantled the "strategic hamlet" and wrested back our right as masters of our land on February 8, 1968. That day we had only a few rifles and scant ammunition, so people staged the uprising mainly with sticks and spades. Now we have an entire guerilla company complete with all the necessary paraphernalia". "In less than two years since liberation. "Thong went on. "the Americans and the puppets launched about sixty attacks. Six hundred got killed, at least a hundred by spike pits set by patriotic mothers and children."

We stoodled farther along the trenches for a few moments and dropped in on Uncle Tho, head of the Peasants' Association for Liberation. As we stepped in, the old man was laying the map of the village on a plank bed. He had pinpointed all the places where norias worked by hand and automatic pumps had been installed to water the paddy and sugar fields along the river Tra Khuc.

Uncle Tho answered with obvious satisfaction my question on rice and sugar yield, "There's no more sight of paddy plants and sugar canes killed by drought as in the early 60s. We brought in bumper harvests in 1968 and this year thanks to the zeal of mutual-aid teams. With norias and pumps we provide enough water to our canes. The PRC has redistributed the lands to the peasants. Landlords and wicked thugs packed up and fled with their masters after the dismantling of the "strategic hamlet."

The head of the Peasants Association showed me some figures in his note-book — the amount contributed by the members from early last year:

Paddy to feed Liberation troops 1000 ta (one ta = 100 kgs).

Amount spent on the building of schools, maternity houses, etc. in terms of paddy 500 ta.

As I jotted down these and other figures, uncle Tho added: "We owe much to the ressistance. Resistance needs are immense but our contributions are still modest. We'll do better after the next main crop."

Thereupon three boys of different ages came in. They were Tho's sons, back from a singing and dancing lesson.

"Is there an elementary school in the village?" I asked one of them, the second in age.

"The headmaster said that will be for next year" was the immediate answer. "Do you know how many schools we have here?"

Aware that I did not, comrade Thong replied in my place, "Fifteen in all and more than one thousand pupils."

Leaving uncle Tho's family, we went on our way along the trenches, in the light of a new moon. I met the soldiers' adoptive mother Vui, teacher Thao — member the PRC and PC — the guerilla girls Hieu, Mui, Hoa and Giang, and Chinh of the Revolutionary Youth Organization. Talking with them as with Mrs Nam, the PRC president, Comrade Thong, the guerilla commander, and old Tho, the leader of the local peasants, I found distinct features in each. But they all resembled, on one point: open-hearted simple-minded, zealous in resistance work, and scrupulously mindful of the interests and security of their countrymen. And for this they were held in high esteem by the latter as their own dear ones.

It was a great pleasure for me to look at the strongly — built and alert guerilla girls, gun barrels shining in the moonlight, moving along National Highway No 1. Before setting out there, they had assembled and discussed their plan under a slogan in red ink on a light-yellow cloth hung at the village gate: "We are determined to defend the revolutionary power."

I fully realized what they were up to, especially now that their native place had been enjoying freedom and happiness since liberation.

November 1968

MINH PHUONG

Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the NFL CC and others CC members follow the situation on the battle-field.

After a battle, a woman guerilla drops in at the creche to fetch her baby

The area of a new life

Maintaining vigilance and keeping ready to fight for the defence of the liberated zone.

The brilliant successes in all fields achieved by the people and their armed forces under the South Viet Nam NFL's glorious banner led to the establishment of a large liberated zone in South Viet Nam.

Each year, the liberated zone extented with new developments in the South Viet Nam people's struggle against US aggression for national salvation.

During II months of general offensives and simultaneous uprisings in 1969, in plains and jungles, also in the belts around the cities, sea-side villages and even in contested zones... new areas have been liberated with 750,000 inhabitants.

Until now, the foundation of the SVNR PRG, a very important historic turning point in our resistance against US aggression, contributed to the establishment of a popular revolutionary power at all levels.

At present in South Viet Nam, 51 per cent of the communes, 59 per cent of the districts, 91 per cent of the provinces, and 100 per cent of the urban centres have set up popular power.

A new life blossoms and improves in all respects under the popular revolutionary power.

More than 2 million hectares of cultivable land have been distributed to the peasants. Agricultural production steadily develops owing to new techniques, and the extension of a hydraulic system. In many regions, rice production surpasses five tons per hectare. The production of handicraft products, foods and articles of daily use has been restored and quickly developed in the liberated zone: hand weaving, sugar-rafinery, fish sauce, metal working, etc...

Education also quickly develops. Each commune has its own primary school and complementary classes for adults. Schools are opened for the formation of teachers, physicians. Culture and art under the motto "let our songs rise higher than the explosion of US bombs" expand.

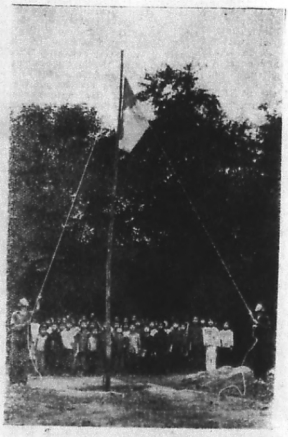
These photographs are only a few illustrations of the new life in the liberated zone.

How happy they are to elect their own representatives to the revolutionary power!

Building fortifications and setting up fighting villages

In a laboratory.

Medical cadres' training school in the liberated zone



A primary school on the day of the opening of classes

Meeting for Viet Nam, in London

NFL and PRG goodwill missions end with success

IN its 12-point Program of action, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has put forward a foreign policy : all-out struggle against imperialism, support to the national liberation movements, good neigh-bourhood relations, readiness to establish diplomatic, economic and cultural relations with all countries, irrespective of their political and social regimes.

In the light of the Political Program of the NFL and of the above line, 1969 has proved a successful diplomatic year for the NFL and the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government.

It was not by chance that not long after the formation of the SVNR PRG a delegation headed by President Huynh Tan Phat paid a visit to Cambodia, a next-door neighbour country bound to the South Vietnamese people by a long standing militant friendship. This trip was highly valued by public opinion in Indochina as a magnificent expression of the friendship and fighting solidarity between the South Vietnamese and Khmer peoples. The delegation of the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government signed with Cambodia an agreement on trade exchanges and modalities of payment, the first commercial accord with a foreign country.

A delegation of the NFL and the SVNR PRG led by Tran Buu Kiem, member of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee, Minister of the Office of the PRG President, visited many socialist and nationalist countries (German Democratic Republic, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, DPR of Korea, Mongolia, Algeria, Syria, UAR). This trip recorded major successes after fruitful and friendly talks with representatives of these countries, the NFL and SVNR PRG delegation signed with them joint communiques which offered new prospects for subsequent agreements to be signed for the benefit of the South Vietnamese people and the peoples concerned, for the diplomatic activities of the SVNR PRG-above all-for the strengthening of the fighting solidarity between the South Vietnamese people and the peoples of the socialist camp and of the developing countries.

Special envoys of the NFL and the SVNR PRG also toured African countries. For the first time, Nguyen Van Quang, special envoy of the SVNR PRG and ambassador Pham Van Quang went to Mali and Mauritania. They were warmly welcomed by President Moussa Traore of Mali and Lawyer Moktar Ould Daddah, President of the Muslim Republic of Mauritania who expressed the admiration of their peoples for our successful resistance and their unreserved support to the 10-point solution of the NFL and of the SVNR PRG.

Another representative of the NFL anp the SVNR PRG Le Quang Chanh, visitep Irak, South Yemen, Sudan, Tanzania...

The trip of Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, SVNR PRG foreign minister, to Albania on the occasion of Albania's National Day and to Hungary was also a great success.

The visits to the PR of China and the Soviet Union by a delegation of the NFL and the SVNR PRG headed by Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee and President of the SVNR PRG advisory Council, were the highlights of the NFL and SVNR internationa1 activities, during China's 20th anniversary of liberation and the Soviet 52nd anniversary of the October Revolution and preparations for the 100th anniversary of the birthday of the Great Lenin. In China as well as in the Soviet Union, the leaders of the heroic South Vietnamese people were given a warm reception. They had talks with State leaders: Chou En-lai, Premier of the State Council of the PRC, I.I Brejzhnev, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR, Kosevgin, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Podgorny, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. The SVNR—China and SVNR—USSR joint communiques spelled out the constant strengthening of the militant solidarity between the South Vietnamese people and the brotherly peoples of the Soviet Union and China.

This year, the South Vietnamese people have recorded important successes in the military, political and diplomatic fields. Through the goodwill missions of the delegations of the NFL and the SVNR PRG they have expressed their sincere gratitude for the heartfelt and effective assistance, support given by various peoples and governments to their struggle against US aggression, for the liberation of South Viet Nam and their effort to achieve national reunification.

The recognition by many peoples and governments of the SVNR PRG and their hearty welcome to the NFL and the SVNR PRG delegations clearly show that the world considers the NFL and the SVNR PRG the authentic representatives of the South Vietnamese people and the Thieu Ky puppet administration a handful of henchmen who represent nobody.

The brilliant results of these friendly visits prove the correctness of the NFL and SVNR PRG foreign policy. They also indicate that the international credit of the NFL and the SVNR PRG is rising ever higher.

HA DUY

Khmer people's NFL reception is the yardstick of its credit

That day the Pochentong airport was splendidly decorated. The guard of honour was stood at attention on both sides of the runway. The reviewing stand was flanked on its left by rows of red and blue-red flags of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of South Viet Nam. Local authorities and ambassadors continued flowing in to bid farewell to the leaving guests. The *ao dai* of Vietnamese women residents added a graceful note to the picture. Focusing their apparatuses, photographers and cameramen were preparing to record the most significant episodes of the event.

At 10.30 a. m a chopper landed to the astonishment of those who knew the arrangements, for it came before the Chief of State. But more astonished and also very moved were those present at the residence of acting Prime Minister Lon Nol : Samdech came there by car to meet the PRG delegation and accompany it to the airport with the Prime Minister. Samdech's unexpected appearance, a gesture which over stepped the protocol limits, conferred still more significance on the farewell ceremony. Some minutes earlier President Huynh Tan Phat had thanked the Royal Government for the paticularly warm reception the PRG delegation had been given during its visit to Cambodia. He had also voiced admiration for the beauty of the Land of Angkor and the brilliant achievements of the Sangkum and of the Khmer people as a whole. Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, who turned up at the very moment General Lon Nol had delivered his reply said his presence was meant to stress his deep feelings for the guests of honour. "Our two countries, he pointed out, are not just allies, but dear brothers as well. Your heroic struggle has earned our admiration."

Phnom-Penh, the capital of peace-loving Cambodia, had the opportunity of welcoming state visitors from many countries. But seldom had it and Khmer people in various regions felt such warm friendship as for the genuine representatives of the South Vietnamese people. They rightly said that the short path covered by the guests to plane for home was strewn with their affection and that of those who were seeing them off. And that the success of their visit to Cambodia was the yardstick to gauge the credit of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the SVNR.

NFL is a paragon, standard-bearer and hope for all peoples

Those words were uttered by Ambassador Raoul Valdes Vivos when he presented his credentials to Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee.

Raoul added he could not contain his strong emotion, he who had the honour to install the first foreign embassy to the National Front for Liberation, the / organizer and leader of the entire people of South Viet Nam in their righteous, sacred and successful resistance to the United States odious aggression.

The presentation of the letters of credence of the Cuban Ambassador took place in a mangrove jungle whose trees, witnesses of innumerable feats of arms, constituted as many monuments to Vietnamese revolutionary heroism. It was in this mangrove jungle that nine years earlier the NFL had come into being.

Ambassador Raoul spoke the language of the heart: "Comrade Fidel, our commander-in-chief has unequivocatily stated that Viet Nam's struggle is also Cuba's, and in the name of all Cubans he said, "For Viet Nam, we are ready to shed our blood". These are historic words in the relations between the two fraternal countries."

Cameramen and tape-recorders also registered another statement of Ambassador Raoul's: "If for their countrymen in the South, the National Front for Liberation is the continuator of the age-old militant tradition of the Vietnamese people, then for all peoples on earth, the Front is a source of pride, a paragon, their standard-bearer and a their hope"

Swedish youths vigorously condemn US aggression in Viet Nam and burn US flag.

WE VOTE FOR PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH
WE LOVE NGUYEN HUU THO

They were about one hundred people from Chicago, New York, Detroit, Newark, Washington, Decktom, Philadelphia... quietly going to Canada from the neighbouring areas of the United States in groups of half a dozen each. To the Liberation Youths they crossed, they said that through the press and television they knew that three students of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation had been visiting Montreal. In order not to miss this rare opportunity, they had crossed US-Canada frontiers to shake hands with the "Viet Cong". One evening after listening to the NFL students speak about the life, fight and thoughts of the youths and students in the South Viet Nam cities, Miss Cagon, a beautiful girl and an activist for an organization of poor people in New York, movingly said, "Dear friends, we know that you are fighting for a just cause and we think that your extraordinary stamina springs from your genuine patriotism. In our American society the just cause is far too remote". With eyes dimmed by tears she went on, "We have enough courage to admit that we belong to an aggressor country. We are very glad that the South Vietnamese people do not consider us their enemy and that you and we have a common enemy—the ringleaders in the White House and the Pentagon".

Coming together with Cagon from New York is Roston, an athletic boy. Once he led a group of youths' action against draft. Facing the police he shouted: "Our battlefield is here, in our New York plagued with sufferings and injustices. We won't go! We won't go! We won't go! Then he tore his draft-card to pieces.

Unlike Roston, the Nicks from Bergson remained calm as befitted their age. Said Nick pensively, "We Americans are shocked because our administration has dropped hundreds of thousands of tons of bombs by B.52s on such lovely dresses (Nick pointed to a dress he had borrowed from a Vietnamese young girl for her wife to be photographed in). There is clear evidence that the war waged by our government in Viet Nam is an atrocious war, a war of extermination against a peaceable nation."

The meeting between the Liberation youths and their American friends unfolded in an atmosphere of warm friendship and deep understanding. When seeing their friends off, the American youths sang a quite well-known song against the Viet Nam war, the refrain of which was sung in chorus: "We won't vote for the Democrats. We won't vote for the Republicans. We love Ho Chi Minh. We love Nguyen Huu Tho. We vote for Ho Chi Minh!"

THE NFL AND PRG IN THE WORLD PEOPLE'S HEARTS

Our long-standing sympathy with the Vietnamese people

Sitting on benches they attentively listened to Sarah Lidman reporting on her trip to Viet Nam. They were Swedish youths garbed in simple clothes who often attended teach-ins about this country. Though living up North Europe on the way of the ice-breakers to the North Pole, the Swedes feel very close to the South Viet Nam Front for Liberation and the Vietnamese people. Indifferent by tradition to the international situation, they have taken over the last years to demonstrations, meetings, torch processions, teach-ins on Viet Nam.

In an even voice Sarah Lidman read a telegram from South Viet Nam: "Early in the morning a mine exploded, blowing up the gates of Quang Ngai prison. More than one thousand people were freed but the guerilla who had planted the mine lost his life." Silence in the hall. All of a sudden from the attendance a question shot out: "Why can't we volunteer and fight in Viet Nam?" Slowly came Sarah's answer: "The Vietnamese have already too much on their hands to cope with problems of Europeans unaccustomed to the environment. We have to struggle right here to support them!"

A salesman said ruefully, "I feel ashamed for us, the Swedes, because we live carefree in great comfort while blood is shed and a part of mankind is suffering."

Others raised their hands for the floor: a girl shorthand typist, a teacher, a worker, a retired civil servant, a student... They gave suggestions on how to awaken the Swedish society, stir up the people still unaware of the South Viet Nam Front for Liberation and of the Vietnamese people's fight.

Thus in this country where the United States is regarded as a "benefactor", the myth of Uncle Sam has been debunked. Groups of Viet Cong Swedish youths and Committees to support the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation are mushrooming. Everywhere there are organizations to support Viet Nam against the American imperialists. In the cold of the North Pole, the friendship between the South Vietnamese and Swedish peoples is warmer than an electric heater. As Sarah Lidman has put it, "The Swedes sympathy with the Vietnamese people is long-standing".

Progressive Americans demonstrate against the aggression war of the US government in South Viet Nam

Sugar for the common struggle

THE youth delegation of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces and the delegation of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Working Youth Union on December 2 arrived in Havana to take part in the 1969-1970 sugar-cane harvest for "Ten Million Tons of Sugar" in Cuba.

The two delegations were warmly welcomed by the Cuban people.

Present at the airport to welcome them were Osvaldo Dorticos, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba and President of the Republic of Cuba; Raul Rea, member of the Party Central Committee and Minister for Foreign Affairs; Jesus Montane Oropesa, member of the Party CC and Minister of Communication; Jorge Risquet, member of the Party CC and Minister of Labour; Pedro Miret, member of the Party CC and First Vice-Minister of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces; Julio Garcia Olivera and Joel Iglesias, members of the Party Central Committee; Mme Melka Hernandez, President of the Cuban Committee for Solidarity with Viet Nam; and others.

Also present were over 100 representatives of the three most outstanding brigades of sugar-cane cutters of Havana; and about 1,500 representatives of the working people in the Cuban capital.

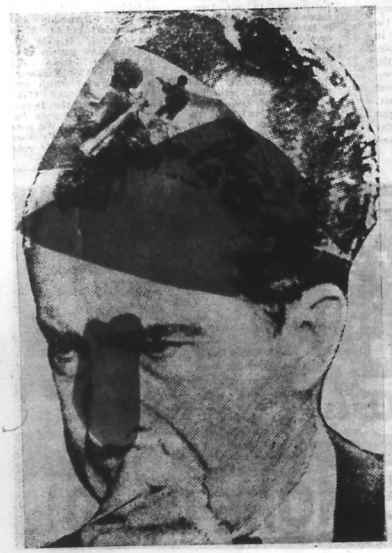
On the Vietnamese side were Nguyen Minh Phuong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the SVNR, Doan Van, Charge d'Affaires ad interim of the DRVN, and representatives of Vietnamese students in Cuba.

The representatives of Cuba sugar-cane cutters presented to Nguyen Van Dao, Company Political Instructor and Head of the PLAF delegation, and Nguyen Van Can, member of the Central Committee of the VNWYU and Head of the Youth Union delegation, two machetes carved with the words "10x10" symbolizing the ten years of resistance of the South Viet Nam people against the US aggressors and the target of ten million tons of sugar of the Cuban people.

At the guest house of the airport, President Osvaldo Dorticos cordially received the two delegations and expressed the elation of the Cuban Party and people at the presence of the Vietnamese youths in the historic sugar-cane harvest of Cuba.

The Cuban President said that the taking part of the Vietnamese youths in the sugar-cane harvest is a vivid manifestation of the fraternal and revolutionary militant friendship between the Cuban and Vietnamese peoples.

The Vietnamese guests were later guided to a house specifically built for them during their stay in Cuba.



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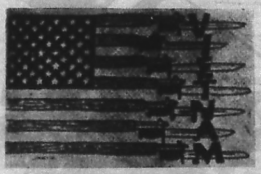
World press opinion



Symbol of aggressive imperialism

The people of Vietnam, an international concern

Aggression policy: a mill grinding US honour

How to intensify the war, such is the daily thought of Nixon.

(after a cartoon from Tricontinental Review)

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